

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a lens group A that includes a negative lens and a reflecting optical element for bending an optical path and remains fixed upon zooming, a lens group B that moves in one direction alone upon zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of the zoom lens, and an aperture stop that remains immovable with respect to position upon zooming, wherein condition (1) is satisfied:

$$0.45 < \log \gamma_B / \log \gamma < 0.85 \quad \dots (1)$$

where $\gamma = f_T / f_W$, and γ_B is a magnification of the lens group B at the telephoto end/a magnification of the lens group B at the wide-angle end, provided that f_W and f_T are focal lengths of the zoom lens at the wide-angle end and the telephoto end, respectively.

2. The zoom lens according to claim 1, wherein the lens group A comprises a negative lens on the object side with respect to the reflecting optical element.

3. The zoom lens according to claim 1, which further comprises a lens group on an image side of the zoom lens with respect to the aperture stop that, upon zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, moves in one direction alone.

4. A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a lens group A that has negative refracting power and remains fixed upon zooming, a lens

group B that has positive refracting power and moves upon zooming, and an aperture stop that remains immovable with respect to position upon zooming, wherein condition (1) is satisfied:

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$$0.45 < \log \gamma_B / \log \gamma < 0.85 \quad \dots (1)$$

where $\gamma = f_T / f_W$, and γ_B is a magnification of the lens group B at a telephoto end/a magnification of the lens group B at a wide-angle end, provided that f_W and f_T are focal lengths of the zoom lens at the wide-angle end and the
10 telephoto end, respectively.

5. The zoom lens according to claim 4, which further comprises a lens group C having negative refracting power and a lens group D having positive refracting power in order from the aperture stop toward an
15 image side of the zoom lens, wherein, upon zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of the zoom lens, at least one lens group moves toward only an image side of the zoom lens.

6. The zoom lens according to claim 4, wherein
20 the lens group A further comprises a reflecting optical element for bending an optical path, and the lens group B moves toward the object side alone upon zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

7. The zoom lens according to claim 1 or 4,
25 wherein the lens group A comprises a subgroup A1 comprising a negative meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof, a reflecting optical element for bending an